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Usnea sp. (a tufted hair-like lichen), whisker-moss. Mansfield, O.

ALGÆ.

Laminaria (saccharina?). Venus's apron-strings. Brookline, Mass.

Laminaria longicruris, Devil's apron-strings; Deb's apron-strings.

Portland, Me.

Devil's apron. N. E. coast.

Spirogyra and allied confervaceæ, frog-spit. U. S.

frog-spawn. Parts of N. B.

BRIEFER ARTICLES.

The systematic position of *Entosthodon Bolanderi*.—In February, 1889, Dr. Edward Palmer, collecting in Lower California for the Department of Agriculture, found this species in the vicinity of Port San Quentin, about a hundred miles south of San Diego. This greatly extends southward the range of this species. It looks much like *Funaria Californica* Sulliv. & Lesq., in outward appearance, but differs from it in the more acuminate leaves, in the capsule more long-necked and constricted under the orifice when dry and in the mamillate lid. Closer examination of the plants, which are in excellent condition, shows furthermore only a rudimentary peristome; the costa ceases above the middle of the leaf; the cells near the apex of the leaf are more elongated.

A search in the material of the closely allied genus *Entosthodon* led to the discovery of this identical species under the name of *Entosthodon Bolanderi* Lesq. The one specimen in the National Herbarium comes from the herbarium of Lesquereux himself, and is labelled: “*Entosthodon Bolanderi* Lesq. Ad terram argillosam, prope San Francisco, Californiae. No. 236. Leg. Bolander.”

A comparison of Palmer's plants with this specimen, and with the figures in Sulliv. Icon. Suppl. t. 17, shows them to *agree* in all respects, except that the figure and description make no reference to the *inner rudimentary* peristome, distinctly present in the specimens of Lesquereux collected by Bolander, as well as in Palmer's specimens. This peristome is as pronounced as in *Funaria microstoma*. In specimens of *Funaria Californica* in the National Herbarium, it is not nearly so well developed as figured in Sulliv. Icon. Suppl. t. 18, but is almost as

rudimentary as in the plants collected by Palmer. So that practically there remain only two prominent points of distinction between *Funaria Californica* and *Entosthodon Bolanderi*: the *lid*, being convex in the former and mamillate in the latter; and the *costa*, passing to the apex in the former, and only to about the middle in the latter.

The color of the peristome, described as "pale, whitish, granulose," is found in both the specimens of Bolander and those recently collected by Palmer, to be in fact *red, granulose, longitudinally striate*, and distinctly articulate. This discrepancy is quite likely due to the difference in maturity of the material examined. The calyptre, referred to in a note under the species in the Manual of N. A. Mosses as "five lobed at base and rather mitrate," is in Dr. Palmer's material usually split open down one side, and at base is more often three or four lobed, this lobing being rather irregular. The calyptre is thus on the whole as in *Funaria*. This, and especially the presence of an *inner* peristome, makes necessary the transfer of this species of *Entosthodon* to *Funaria*; it should be called *Funaria Bolanderi* (Lesq.).—JOHN M. HOLZINGER, *Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*

A probable new category of carnivorous plants.—The fact that members of the genus *Polyporus* are in the habit of catching and digesting small insects is not generally known. At least after a careful examination of such literature as happens to be at hand, the writer is unable to discover any reference to what is a distinct and curious phenomenon in the life history of some of these large and interesting fungi. In *Polyporus applanatus* the method of catching and devouring the insects has been studied by me, and a brief description may be in place at the present time. Whether or not the habit alluded to has been described by other students I cannot yet be sure, but it is sufficiently unknown in American writings to permit of attention in these pages.

Polyporus applanatus (Pers.) Wallr. is common around Lake Minnetonka, where it occurs on its ordinary hosts, and also on *Tilia Americana* in considerable abundance. The large size—one-third of a meter in diameter—and the cinnamon-brown zonate upper surface, together with the light under surface and the minute pores make it a conspicuous object in the woods and swamps. This plant seems to exert an attractive influence over various species of small flies—especially when partly grown. The flies may be seen assembling in swarms upon the under surface of the plant, where they walk about and appear to feed upon the soft substance of the hymenophore. Mosquitoes and gnats, together with larger flies, may be found upon the under